Chapter 21 Packing Up

THE EUNUCH WITH QUESTIONABLE TASTES WHO APPEARED A FEW DAYS PRIOR...
...CAME TO THE PLEASURE DISTRICT WITH PLENTY OF MONEY AND PRECIOUS MEDICINAL HERBS IN TOW.
IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG BEFORE THE CONTRACT WAS SEALED.
WHEN MY FATHER READ THE CONTRACT, HIS FACE DARKENED FOR A MOMENT, AND THEN HE SAID...
DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.
... WITH A SMILE.
AND THEN, IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE, IT WAS DECIDED THAT I'D BE SERVING AT SOME LORDLY PLACE—
OKAY, OKAY. THIS AND THIS.
OH, AND TAKE THIS TOO.
HEY.
I DON'T NEED ALL THIS STUFF, SIS.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU DON'T ?!
YOU'LL BE SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE WEARING MUCH FANCIER STUFF WHEN YOU'RE THERE!
I'M GOING THERE TO WORK. IT'S ONLY YOU COURTESANS WHO NEED TO DRESS YOURSELVES UP NICE.
TOSS
VERDIGR

DON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULD BE THINKING ABOUT BECOMING SOMEONE WHO FITS IN THERE?
LISTEN, NOW.
YOU'VE MANAGED TO LAND YOURSELF A PRETTY GOOD JOB.
MEIMEI'S WORDS ARE PERSUASIVE.
...OR ELSE YOU'LL RISK DRIVING YOUR SHINY NEW PATRON AWAY.
...YOU'LL HAVE TO LIVE SHOWING YOUR GRATITUDE...
SINCE YOU'LL BE IN SUCH A LUCKY POSITION ...
...I MUST SEEM INCREDIBLY LUCKY FROM EVERYONE ELSE'S POINT OF VIEW..
TO HAVE NOT ONLY MY DEBT TAKEN OVER BY ANOTHER ...
...BUT TO ALSO BE ABLE TO RETURN TO THE PLACE THAT ONCE LET ME GO...
THIS TOO, AND THAT, AND...
SHE'S AT THE AGE WHERE SHE CAN THINK ABOUT RETIRING FROM THE LIFE OF A COURTESAN ...
...BECAUSE SHE HAS THE BRAINS TO ENTERTAIN WITH SONG, AS WELL AS PLAY GO AND SHOGI.
...BUT HER POPULARITY HASN'T WANED IN THE SLIGHTEST...
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I'M SO GLAD YOU FOUND A GOOD PLACE TO WORK.
MAKE LOTS OF MONEY.
SSK
MAO-MAO.
OH, JOKA.
THANK YOU.
I WILL.
NAB YOURSELF A NICE, RICH HUSBAND, NOW!
AND BRING US MORE SOLID CUSTOM!
HEE HEE HEE!
THE COURTESANS AT VERDIGRIS ARE ALL STARTING TO SOUND LIKE ITS MADAM.

WHOOOOSH
I'M HOME.
KRAKL
KRAKL
MY, THAT'S A WHOLE LOT YOU GOT THERE.
THERE'S NO WAY I'LL BE ABLE TO PACK EVERY-THING.
HEFTY
WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH IT ALL?
I DEFINITELY NEED MY MORTAR, HAND MILL, AND NOTE-BOOKS.
IF I TAKE MUCH MORE THAN THAT, I'LL HAVE TO LEAVE SOME UNDERTHINGS BEHIND.
HMM...
MAO-MAO.
I DON'T THINK YOU CAN BRING ALL OF THIS WITH YOU.
HUH? WHY NOT?!
SINCE YOU'RE NOT A PHYSICIAN, BRINGING IN ALL THESE TOOLS...
...WILL MAKE THEM SUSPICIOUS, AND THEY'LL THINK YOU'RE UP TO NO GOOD.

PERHAPS YOU COULD GET PERMISSION TO BRING IN A LITTLE AT A TIME.
PAT ぽん。
NOW, NOW. DON'T MAKE THAT FACE.
THIS IS WHAT YOU DECIDED FOR YOUR-SELF.
SHOCK ガーン
NOOO ...
...I WILL.
TOMORROW'S YOUR FIRST DAY, SO AFTER YOU'RE DONE PACKING, BE SURE TO GET SOME SLEEP.
RUB さすさす
RUB さすさす
WOBBLE ぴょこ
ぴょこ WOBBLE

IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT LEAVING PA HERE BY HIMSELF.
I'M BLOWING OUT THE CANDLES NOW.
FWOO
WEREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO SAID YOU WEREN'T A KID ANYMORE?
IT'S COLD TODAY.
DRAG もぞ
DRAG もぞ
AWW, IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE LAST SLEPT LIKE THIS.

IT'S GOING TO BE QUIET HERE AGAIN.
NOT REALLY.
THE RULES AREN'T GOING TO BE SO STRICT FOR ME THIS TIME.
TRUE.
FEEL FREE TO COME HOME WHENEVER YOU LIKE.
I DON'T HAVE A MOTHER.

...THAT ANNOYING GRANNY, AND CHEERFUL OLDER SISTERS IN MY LIFE.
BUT I HAVE A KIND FATHER WHO'S LIKE A MOTHER TO ME...
I'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
I CAN COME HOME WHENEVER I WANT, AFTER ALL.
THE APOTHECARY DIARIES 4 • End

TÈBIÉ XIÈXIE
SPECIAL THANKS
Thanks for reading *The Apothecary Diaries,* Volume 4! I look forward to drawing every chapter of *Apothecary* with all its fun characters and scenes, but it's kind of sad that the characters who didn't appear in the original insert artwork of the light novel and those I got to design myself have to leave the story. I'll be pouring my love into the world and characters of *Apothecary* as I continue working on it!
Please be sure to read the next volume too!
From the artist, Nekokurage
Thank you always!
ASSISTANTS Waka Takase. Rie Shirol. IOS, Asaha, Shura Yamada
COMPILATION Itsuki Nanao
ORIGINAL Natsu Hyuuga, Touco Shino
My editor, you, the readers, and everyone else involved!
SPECIAL THANKS

With this volume, we've completed all of Volume 1 of the original light novel. We couldn't have done it without your support. Thank you so much!
That being said, The Apothecary Diaries is going to get even more intriguing, so we hope you all continue to support us!
Itsuki Nanao (Compilation)
Special Thanks
Author: Natsu Hyuuga
Light novel illustrator: Touco Shino
Manga artist: Nekokurage
The editor
&
You, the readers

Story by Itsuki Nanao Art by Nekokurage

Story by Itsuki Nanao *Art by* Nekokurage